commitments by various agencies in the affidavits filed earlier in the year 2000 and 2001. The affidavit is to be filed on the basis of inputs from various agencies e.g. MCD, DDA, NDMC, DSIDC & DJB/Govt. of NCT Delhi.

Use of forest land for developmental projects

1327. SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to allow the use of forest land for the purpose of developmental projects; and

(b) if so, the details of total area of land being considered for the use of the same, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (b) Forests are repository of natural resources, minerals, and water and a large population of the country is living around forested regions. It is the constitutional requirement of the Government to develop all the regions and their people and harness the natural resources available in the country sustainably to support the optimum economic growth. With this view, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, which is an Act that maintains a rational balance between conservation of environment and developmental efforts, was enacted by the Central Government. The Act is regulatory in nature, and not prohibitory. The Act deals with the forestry clearance for diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes.

Since its enactment in 1980, 12,241 development projects involving 10.03 lakh hectare of forest land, have been granted forestry clearance under this Act. These include the projects for power generation (hydro-power, thermal, gas, and wind), irrigation, construction of roads, railway lines, transmission lines, drinking water supply projects, village electricity, schools, hospitals etc. To mitigate the ill effects arising out of such diversion, compensatory afforestation and other necessary measures are undertaken at the project cost.

Further, there is no advance apportioning of forest land for a State/ Union Territory, for being diverted for development projects. The Central

Government considers only those proposals for diversion of forest land under this Act which are recommended by the State/UT Governments.

Appointment of Public prosecutor for pending wildlife cases

1328. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 200 cases registered under Wildlife (Protection) Act are pending in courts in the Capital and there are no public prosecutors to handle those cases;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the public prosecutors are likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) : (a) As per report received from Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, 172 wildlife cases are pending trial in designated Wildlife Courts in the capital. An Additional Public Prosecutor for the State has been provided by the Directorate of Prosecution, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to handle the cases.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Poaching of black bucks

†1329. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether poaching of black bucks in the forest area of Jhajjhar in Haryana has become common feature; if so, the number of incidents of poaching during the last three years and the number of bucks killed;

(b) the number of persons arrested red-handed for poaching of black bucks in Jhajjhar area and the action taken against them; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.